

The next morning we were in the Lowacherra Forest by 08.00, it being just two kilometres from the guest house. It looked like it was at the better end of the scale of expectations, and this was brought home by a sudden cacophony of: 'Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo' from the forest canopy. The vocalisation was not exactly what I knew from Thailand, Malaysia, and Sumatra, but it was quite clear that we had met a troupe of gibbons, in this case the Hoolock *Hylobates hoolock*. Five minutes later we had a fine view of a Hoolock family feeding on a nearly naked fig at the top of the canopy, thin creatures with long limbs looking as if they might have been fashioned from pipe-cleaners. For someone having spent much of past ten years in West Africa, seeing gibbons like this was truly amazing, since they would long since have been shot dead. But here, neither the Muslim Bangla nor the animist Khasi tribals eat monkeys, so they are safe.

If there are gibbons, there must be butterflies, and indeed there were. We collected some 160 species on the first trip and another 50 on two subsequent visits. They range from huge birdwings like *Troides helena* to the amazing Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*, the Green Oakblue *Arhopala eumolphus*, which is so pretty in fresh specimens that you want to cry, to four species of Jezebel, *Delias*, and lots of interesting skippers. I also netted my first Popinjay *Stibochiona nicea*, which I had wanted to catch since I was a kid in India; it sent me straight to the Oxford dictionary – do you know what it means?

We now have about 230 Bangladesh butterflies of our own, as well as definite older records of another 80 (mainly from Chittagong). There are some 140 that must be (or at least must have been) in the country judging by distribution, ecology, and biogeography. So it looks as if 500 species is quite possible, and this despite the fact that there are no high mountains. I'll make a report by the time we leave Dhaka (sorry relocate) with comparisons with Indian lists from Assam and Tripura from the 1890s. So watch this space.

I also now have that wonderful instrument of mental health, an easily accessible ABD (Anything But Dhaka), much nicer, easier, and cheaper than shopping trips to Thailand which is the usual alternative and goes to show how dire the situation is judged to be. So: "Hoo, hoo, hoo – see you next month!" – TORBEN B. LARSEN, Bangladesh, World Bank, 1818 H. Street N. W., Washington D. C., 20433, USA.

Dotted Chestnut *Conistra rubiginea* (D.& S.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Warwickshire

The recent well-documented expansion in the range of this species (e.g., *Ent. Rec.* **114**: 130; **114**: 180; **114**: 209-210), suggests that it is worth noting that a gravid female was taken at mv light in my garden at Charlecote, Warwickshire, on 28 March 2003. This is the first report from VC 38 since the moth was taken at Rugby on 6 October 1886 and is further evidence of a general expansion of the species from its "base" in central southern England.— DAVID C. G. BROWN, Jackson's Lawn, Charlecote, near Warwick CV35 9EW.